Claim Rejections 35 USC 102(b)

Applicant has amended claim 13 by adding claim 14 thereto and claim 16 by adding claim 17 thereto according to the allowable subject matter section. Claims dependent upon a newly allowable base claim are also made allowable.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103(a)

Applicant has amended claim 13 by adding claim 14 thereto according to the allowable subject matter section. Claims dependent upon a newly allowable base claim are also made allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant agrees with examiner that claims 14, 17 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that applicant has responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in this application, and this application is now in condition for allowance. In this regard, applicant has made every effort to comply with the requirements set forth in this Office Action as well as statutory requirements. Accordingly, applicant respectfully request that the Examiner enter this amendment, allow the claims, and pass this application on to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Ersler Req No. 38,753

Dated: 2/23/04

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